

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. 10/715,580 Examiner: Victor D Batson
Filing Date: November 18, 2003 Group Art Unit: 3671
Inventor: Dean J Mayerle Confirmation No.: 4747
Title: *System and Method For Distributing Multiple Materials From An Agricultural Vehicle*
Attorney Docket No. 15313

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL REJECTION

Mail Stop –Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated February 28, 2006 and the Advisory Action dated June 1, 2006, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 10 of this paper.

In The Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for distributing first and second materials comprising:

first and second sources holding the first and second materials, respectively;

a plurality of distribution units; and

a nurse distribution mechanism configured to selectively communicate each of the sources with each of the distribution units by which each of the first and second materials from the respective first and second sources can be individually transmitted to the plurality of distribution units; [.]

wherein the plurality of distribution units includes a first plurality of meters and a second plurality of distribution units includes a first plurality of meters and a second plurality of meters, wherein a respective one of each of the first and second pluralities of meters is included within each of the respective distribution units.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the first material from the first source is transmitted to the plurality of distribution units at a first time, and the second material from the second source is transmitted to the plurality of distribution units at a second time.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 [3], wherein the nurse distribution mechanism includes first and second pluralities of distribution lines, wherein each of the first plurality of distribution lines is coupled between the first source and a respective one of the first plurality of meters, and wherein each of the second plurality of distribution lines is coupled between the second source and a respective one of the second plurality of meters.

5. (Original) The system of claim 4, wherein each of the first and second pluralities of meters is capable of being turned on and turned off by way of at least one signal provided by at least one of an electrical signal transmitted by wire, a wireless signal, and a GPS signal.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 27 [6], wherein communication between the compartments of the respective meters and metering devices of those respective meters is controlled by way of a flapper.

8. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein the nurse distribution mechanism includes first and second pluralities of distribution lines, wherein each of the first plurality of distribution lines is coupled between the first source and the first receiver compartment of a respective one of the plurality of meters, wherein each of the second plurality of distribution lines is coupled between the second source and the second receiver compartment of a respective one of the plurality of meters, and wherein the respective flapper of each respective meter determines whether the meter distributes material from its respective first receiver compartment or from its respective second receiver compartment.

9. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein each of the flappers of each of the meters is capable of being controlled from a remote location.

10-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) A system for distributing first and second materials comprising:

first and second sources holding the first and second materials, respectively;

a plurality of distribution units; and

a nurse distribution mechanism configured to selectively communicate each of [coupled between] the sources with and each of the distribution units by which each of

the first and second materials from the respective first and second sources can be individually transmitted to the plurality of distribution units,

wherein the plurality of distribution units includes a plurality of meters,

wherein each of the meters includes a receiver having first and second inlets,

wherein the nurse distribution mechanism includes first and second pluralities of distribution lines,

wherein each of the first plurality of distribution lines is coupled between the first source and the first inlet of the receiver of a respective one of the plurality of meters, and

wherein each of the second plurality of distribution lines is coupled between the second source and the second inlet of the receiver of a respective one of the plurality of meters.

16. (Original) The system of claim 15,

wherein whether the respective receivers receive the first material or the second material by way of the respective first or second inlets is determined by one of a setting on a respective nurse inductor box and a status of air being supplied to at least one of the first and second sources.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 29 [17], wherein the valve is positioned closer to the first and second sources than to the distribution units.

19. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 29 [17], wherein the valve is capable of combining the first and second materials to form a combination material, and capable of providing the combination material by way of the secondary lines to the distribution units.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 30 [20], wherein the coupling mechanism is manually actuatable.

22. (Cancelled)

23-26 (Withdrawn)

27. (New) A system for distributing first and second materials comprising:
first and second sources holding the first and second materials, respectively;
a plurality of distribution units; and
a nurse distribution mechanism configured to selectively communicate each of the sources with each of the distribution units by which each of the first and second

materials from the respective first and second sources can be individually transmitted to the plurality of distribution units;
wherein the plurality of distribution units includes a plurality of meters, and wherein each of the meters includes first and second receiver compartments.

28. (New) A system for distributing first and second materials comprising:

- first and second sources holding the first and second materials, respectively;

- a plurality of distribution units; and

- a nurse distribution mechanism configured to selectively communicate each of the sources with each of the distribution units by which each of the first and second materials from the respective first and second sources can be individually transmitted to the plurality of distribution units;

wherein the nurse distribution mechanism comprises:

- a first primary line coupled to the first source;

- a second primary line coupled to the second source;

- a first nurse header coupled to each of the first and second primary lines; and

- a first plurality of secondary lines, each of which is coupled to the first nurse header and additionally is coupled to a respective one of the plurality of distribution units, wherein at least some of the plurality of distribution units are coupled to the first nurse header by the plurality of secondary lines;

- a third primary line coupled to the first source;

- a fourth primary line coupled to the second source;

a second nurse header coupled to each of the third and fourth primary lines; and

a second plurality of secondary lines, each of which is coupled to the second nurse header and additionally is coupled to a respective one of the plurality of distribution units, wherein a first subset of the plurality of distribution units are coupled to the first nurse header by the first plurality of secondary lines, and another subset of the plurality of distribution units are coupled to the second nurse header by the second plurality of secondary lines.

29. (New) A system for distributing first and second materials comprising:

first and second sources holding the first and second materials, respectively;

a plurality of distribution units; and

a nurse distribution mechanism configured to selectively communicate each of the sources with each of the distribution units by which each of the first and second materials from the respective first and second sources can be individually transmitted to the plurality of distribution units;

wherein the nurse distribution mechanism comprises:

first and second primary lines coupled to the first and second sources, respectively;

a plurality of secondary lines coupled to at least some of the distribution units, wherein each of the secondary lines is coupled to a respective one of the distribution units; and

a valve coupled to the first and second primary lines and to each of the plurality of secondary lines.

30. (New) A system for distributing first and second materials comprising:

first and second sources holding the first and second materials, respectively;

a plurality of distribution units; and

a nurse distribution mechanism configured to selectively communicate each of the sources with each of the distribution units by which each of the first and second materials from the respective first and second sources can be individually transmitted to the plurality of distribution units;

wherein the nurse distribution mechanism further comprises:

first and second primary lines coupled to the first and second sources, respectively;

a plurality of secondary lines coupled to at least some of the distribution units, wherein each of the secondary lines is coupled to a respective one of the distribution units; and

a coupling mechanism that, in a first position, couples the first primary line to the plurality of secondary lines and, in a second position, couples the second primary line to the plurality of secondary lines.

REMARKS

The Examiner has indicated that claims 3-9, 11 and 15-21 contain allowable subject matter. However, the Examiner has also objected to claims 15-16 due to certain informalities. As hereinafter described, applicant has amended the present application to re-write the claims containing allowable subject matter and to overcome the informalities in claims 15-16. As such, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the Examiner's rejections in view of the following comments.

Applicant has incorporated the subject matter of dependent claim 3 into independent claim 1. It is now believed that independent claim 1 is in proper form for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. Claims 2 and 4-5 depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 1 and further define a system for distributing first and second materials not shown or suggested in the art. It is believed that claims 2 and 4-5 are allowable as depending from an allowable base claim and in view of the subject matter of each claim.

Applicant has rewritten dependent claim 6 as new independent claim 27. It is now believed that claim 27 is in proper form for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. Claims 7-9 depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 27 and further define a system for distributing first and second materials not shown or suggested in the art. It is believed that claims 7-9 are allowable depending from an allowable base claim and in view of the subject matter of each claim.

Applicant has rewritten claim 11 as independent claim 28. It is now believed that claim 28 is in proper form for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Referring to claim 15, applicant has amended such claim to overcome the informality identified by the Examiner. It is now believed that claim 15 is in proper form for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. Claim 16 depends from claim 15 and further defines a system of distributing first and second materials not shown in the art. It is believed that claim 16 is allowable as depending from an allowable base claim and in view of the subject matter of each claim.

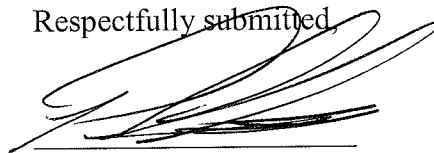
Claim 17 has been rewritten in independent form as new claim 29. It is now believed that claim 29 is in proper form for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. Claims 18-19 depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 29 and further define a system for distributing first and second materials not shown or suggested in the art. It is believed that claims 18-19 are allowable as depending from an allowable base claim and in view of the subject matter of each claim.

Finally, claim 20 has been rewritten in independent form as new claim 30. It is now believed that claim 30 is in proper form for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. Claim 21 depends from claim 20 and further defines a system for distributing first and second materials not shown or suggested in the art. It is believed that claim 21 is allowable as depending from an allowable base claim and in view of the subject matter of each claim.

Applicant believes that the present application with claims 1-2, 4-5, 7-9, 15-16, 18-19, 21 and 27-30 is in proper form for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. The fee of \$950.00 for two additional independent claims and a two month extension of time is enclosed herewith. Nevertheless, should the Examiner consider any other fees to be payable in conjunction with this or any future communication, authorization is given to direct payment of such fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1170.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it would help expedite matters.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter C. Stomma', written over a horizontal line.

Peter C. Stomma
Reg. No. 36,020

Docket No. 15313

Dated: July 28, 2006

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